

# Transition to the New Emergency Medical System Education Standards

## **Background**

The information contained within this document was obtained from the *National Emergency Medical System (EMS) Education Standards* provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation; the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NR); the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO); and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS).

The NR adopted the *National EMS Education Standards*. The National Association of EMS Educators led the development of the *Education Standards*, which replaced the former U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Standard Curricula at all certification levels. The *Education Standards* define the minimal entry-level educational competencies for each level of EMS personnel as identified in the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model*. The less rigid *Education Standards* are designed to increase program flexibility, creativity, and adaptability.

NASEMSO's *National EMS Education Standards Transition Templates* provide the information necessary to bridge the gap between the former National Standard Curriculum and the *2009 Education Standards*.

The *Education Standards* is not a stand-alone document. EMS education programs should incorporate each element of the education system proposed in the *2000 EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. These elements include:

- ❖ National EMS Core Content
  - Defines the entire domain of out-of-hospital practice and identifies the universal body of knowledge and skills for EMS providers who do not function as independent practitioners.
- ❖ National EMS Scope of Practice
  - Defines the levels of EMS personnel and delineates the practices and minimum competencies for each level of EMS personnel.
- ❖ National EMS Education Standards
  - Defines the competencies, clinical behaviors, and judgments that must be met by entry-level EMS personnel to meet practice guidelines defined in the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model*. Content and concepts defined in the *National EMS Core Content* are also integrated within the *Education Standards*.
- ❖ National EMS Certification
  - Supports the key elements of the system.
- ❖ National EMS Program Accreditation
  - Supports the key elements of the system.

This integrated system is essential to achieving the goals of program efficiency, consistency of instructional quality, and student competence as outlined in the *Education Agenda*.

### **Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)/EMS Regulations**

The revised provisions relating to EMS providers were included in Senate Bill 100, which was approved by the Nevada Legislature earlier this year. The changes will be reflected in NRS 450B regulations went into effect on January 1, 2014. The new levels of certification will be reflected in the Regulations, however, the current levels of certification will continue to be recognized until December 31, 2015. During this transition period we will have eight levels of certification in effect in our system from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. All providers will remain at their current level of certification until they have completed a Nevada State EMS Program approved transition refresher course.

### **New Certification Levels**

Transition dates and processes which certified EMS providers must follow to maintain their certification in Nevada are outlined below:

<b>Current Level</b>	<b>New Level</b>	<b>Complete Transition By:</b>
First Responder (FR)	Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	December 31, 2015
EMT-Basic	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	December 31, 2015
EMT-Intermediate/85	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	December 31, 2015
EMT-Paramedic	Paramedic	December 31, 2015

### **Transition Refresher Courses**

Training centers may utilize the following approved sources as templates for the development of transition refresher courses (resource links provided on the last page). This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. The Nevada State EMS Program will approve training on a case-by-case basis:

- 1) AAOS Emergency Medical Technician Transition Manual – Bridging the Gap to the National EMS Education Standards
- 2) The Brady Transition Series for EMT or Advanced EMT
- 3) The NASEMSO 2011 National EMS Education Standards Transition Templates – A Comparison of EMS Knowledge and Skills to Assist the Transition and Implementation of the National EMS Education Standards for the:
  - a) EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician
  - b) EMT Intermediate 85 to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
  - c) EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic
- 4) The NASEMSO 2009 National EMS Education Standards Gap Analysis Template – A Comparison of EMS Knowledge and Skills to Assist the Transition and Implementation of the National EMS Education Standards.

Educators are expected to include an overview of the new content at all certification levels as part of the refresher transition course. Instructors can only instruct up to their valid current level of certification on file in the State EMS Program.

Nevada certified EMS providers who complete an approved transition refresher course prior to January 1, 2014 will be tracked in our system so they can be transitioned to their new level of certification on January 1, 2014. The deadline to transition to the new certification levels is December 31, 2015.

### **Transition Refresher Courses – Certificates of Completion**

All Nevada transition refresher courses must contain the following verbiage (appropriate to the level of certification) in addition to the sponsoring agency's name, transition refresher course completion date, and education coordinator's signature:

- ❖ “This is to certify that (John Smith) has successfully completed a (24 hour EMT-Basic to EMT) Transition Refresher Course (Course #) conducted in accordance with the Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and Nevada State EMS Program.”
- ❖ “This is to certify that (John Smith) has successfully completed a (36 hour EMT-Intermediate/85 to AEMT) Transition Refresher Course (Course #) conducted in accordance with the Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and Nevada State EMS Program. The course included successful completion of a course-ending practical examination that consisted of all skills listed on the Skills Proficiency Record, and the following additional skills:
  - Patient Assessment/Management-Medical
  - Airway Ventilation and Oxygenation of an Infant/Child in Respiratory Distress/Failure
  - Cardiac Arrest Management/AED
  - Intravenous Bolus Medications
  - Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion”

- ❖ “This is to certify that (John Smith) has successfully completed a (40 hour EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic) Transition Refresher Course (Course #) conducted in accordance with the Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and Nevada State EMS Program.”

Hybrid on-line transition courses that are approved by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for EMS (CECBEMS) will be accepted as an alternative to Nevada approved transition courses. Skills demonstration will be addressed at the local agency level.

Nevada EMT-Basics and EMT-Paramedics will automatically transition to the new levels of EMT and Paramedic, respectively, upon completion of an approved transition refresher course. The new certification levels will be effective January 1, 2014. If they are currently certified by National Registry and would like to maintain that certification, they will need to comply with National Registry’s requirements. At this time, National Registry does not require them to complete a National EMS Certification Examination.

Nevada EMT-Intermediates will automatically transition to the AEMT level upon completion of an approved transition refresher course. The new certification level will be effective January 1, 2014. If they are currently certified by National Registry and would like to maintain that certification, they will need to comply with National Registry’s requirements. At this time, National Registry requires those wishing to transition to the new level to pass the NR-AEMT cognitive examination.

#### **Failure to Complete Transition Requirements by the December 31, 2015 Deadline**

Nevada EMS providers who are currently certified at the EMT-Paramedic level must complete the EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic transition refresher course by the deadline or they will be downgraded to the AEMT level.

Nevada EMS providers who are currently certified at the EMT-Intermediate level must complete the EMT-Intermediate to AEMT transition refresher course by the deadline or they will be downgraded to the EMT level.

Nevada EMS providers who are currently certified at the EMT-Basic level must complete the EMT-Basic to EMT transition refresher course by the deadline or they will be decertified.

#### **Reciprocity Applicants**

We expect to receive reciprocity applicants who are currently certified through National Registry at the EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate (I/85), and EMT-Paramedic levels. We will continue to accept their certification at that level, and if appropriate, will certify/recertify them at that same level. However, they must also complete a transition refresher course at the appropriate level of certification prior to the December 31, 2015, deadline.

#### **Initial Training**

Initial training that was submitted for approval in Nevada on or after April 1, 2013, has been approved under the new *Education Standards*. All Nevada certified EMS providers who complete an initial training course prior to December 31, 2013, and who are issued a NREMT certificate under the “new” level will be issued a Nevada certificate under the “new” level.

NHTSA has posted the final *Education Standards* at [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov). Educational programs should communicate and coordinate with the State of Nevada EMS Program prior to using the *Education Standards* to ensure all

Nevada requirements will be met. The new *Education Standards* are LESS prescriptive than its predecessor, the NSC. Accordingly, hours to deliver a particular course will vary. The goal of the new *Education Standards* is to focus on OUTCOMES, not the time spent achieving them. The class should dictate the pace of instruction and educational programs should determine the delivery methods (including distance learning that can be used by students to adapt to personal schedules or reinforce class materials, if needed). The current NSC model does not accommodate that need. The *Education Agenda* supports participation of learners by creating an opportunity for efficiency in the delivery of essential content.

**Resources Supporting the Implementation of the EMS Education  
Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach**

- Nevada Revised Statute 450B (2014)  
<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-450B.html>
- National EMS Education Agenda (2000)  
<http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/FinalEducationAgenda.pdf>
- National EMS Core Content (2005)  
<http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/EMSCoreContent.pdf>
- National EMS Scope of Practice Model (2006)  
[http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/EMS\\_Feb07\\_PMS314SOP.pdf](http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/EMS_Feb07_PMS314SOP.pdf)
- National EMS Education Standards (2009)  
<http://www.nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/NationalEMSEducationStandards.pdf>
- National EMS Education Standards Gap Analysis Template (2009)  
<http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/2009NASEMSOGapAnalysisTemplate.pdf>
- Emergency Medical Technician Instructional Guidelines (2009)  
<http://www.nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/811077cEMTIGs.pdf>
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Instructional Guidelines (2009)  
<http://www.nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/811077dAEMTIGs.pdf>
- Paramedic Instructional Guidelines (2009)  
<http://www.nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/documents/811077eparamedicIGs.pdf>